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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 12:11 PM

**To:** Grindstaff, Joe@DeltaCouncil; Coolidge, Keith@DeltaCouncil

**Cc:** Isenberg, Phil@DeltaCouncil

**Subject:** Checking in and referencing an important viewpoint

Hi All, and Thank you for getting out the draft Delta Plan. I'm reviewing it now.

I wanted to give you this link to a Sac Bee Op-Ed by Peter Gleick at the Pacific Institute. You may have seen it back in January, but I thought it appropriate in the context of the meetings to discuss the draft next week at your meetings. Peter discusses the importance of storage during high water years, but not as surface storage, but via groundwater recharge. It is something we made as a recommendation in our document submitted in Stockton. Here's the link:

[http://www.pacinst.org/publications/essays\\_and\\_opinion/state\\_needs\\_more\\_water\\_storage.html](http://www.pacinst.org/publications/essays_and_opinion/state_needs_more_water_storage.html)

I'm not sure where you are on the issue of panels for the March and subsequent meetings, but you'll likely remember we made the recommendation at our meeting last week to invite outside experts to be panel members, as opposed to stakeholders. We suggested Peter Gleick as one of those to invite, and there are certainly others we could suggest. Let us know if we can provide additional good panel members for the meetings.

Our concern with stakeholders is that it is likely to create conflicts and advocacy rather than good neutral recommendations based on research and facts on the ground. We feel the Council needs the best information available, like Peter provides in the Op-Ed. Stakeholders do have good inputs to make, but outside neutral parties are more likely to provide unbiased input, and be able to answer the tough questions and support responses with good references. Stakeholders have their chance for input via our recommendations and written inputs., in addition to public comments at the meetings. Additionally, listening to the panels would provide all of us with information we probably need to make our decisions and recommendations, or to modify those already made. I hope you'll consider this approach with the goal to make the panels as informative as possible.

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See our website for members and issues: <http://www.stopextinction.org>.

The Endangered Species Coalition is a national network of hundreds of conservation, scientific, education, religious, sporting, outdoor recreation, humane, business and community groups. Through public education, scientific information and citizen participation, we work to protect our nation's wildlife and wild places.